



For immediate release
March 22, 2002
Contact: Jim Grebing at 573/751-9065 or
Bill Niblack at 573/751-3595

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157
www.missouridevelopment.org

Missouri's labor market conditions held steady in February

Missouri labor market conditions were relatively unchanged in February, as the national economy appeared to have either bottomed out or begun a recovery.

The state's unadjusted unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percent to 5.2 percent in February, which is only two-tenths of a point higher than a year ago. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained the same as January's figure at 4.7 percent, and only a tenth of a point above the February 2001 rate. Non-farm payroll employment decreased slightly, on a seasonally adjusted basis, after having shown a gain in January.

The national unemployment rate also remained relatively unchanged at 5.5 percent (seasonally adjusted) in February, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Nine Missouri counties reported double digit unemployment rates in February, including Pemiscot (10.0), Miller (10.6), Wright (10.8), Washington (11.0), Douglas (12.3), Reynolds (12.4), Wayne (13.7), Taney (20.2) and Stone (23.3).

Boone, Cole and Nodaway counties, which have experienced relatively low changes in unemployment rates over the past year, continued to remain at 2.5 percent or below.

Payroll employment seems to have bottomed out after having dropped consistently since February 2001, just before the national recession began. Over that time period, seasonally adjusted employment fell by 52,100 jobs, or 1.9 percent. The majority of that drop has been in manufacturing, with almost all reported industries reporting at least some losses. One notable exception has been in motor vehicles and equipment where current employment of 32,300 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) is about the same as it was a year ago. That industry has generally experienced occasional short layoffs for model changeovers or inventory adjustment.

Most service-producing industries have also shed jobs over the past year. Retail trade is an exception, as growth in the past couple of months seems to have lifted employment above the year-ago level, by about 3,500. Health services have continued to be a source of strong growth, with employment increasing by 5,400 jobs since February 2001. A number of other service industries seem to have resumed some growth in February, although most continue to remain below year-ago employment levels. Business services employment has been pretty flat since about September 2001. That industry had lost 12,100 jobs, or nearly 8 percent, between June 2000 and September 2001.

State and federal government employment has fallen over the past year, by 3,800 and 1,300 jobs, respectively. Local governments, including public schools, have added 4,000 jobs in the year.

-more-

MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (FEBRUARY 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (DECEMBER 2001 AND JANUARY 2002), AND YEAR AGO (FEBRUARY 2001)

	FEB 2002	JAN 2002	DEC 2001	FEB 2001		FEB 2002	JAN 2002	DEC 2001	FEB 2001
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	6.1	6.3	5.4	4.6	Atchison	3.5	3.7	2.8	3.4
MISSOURI	5.2	5.3	4.8	5.0	Audrain	4.3	4.1	3.7	4.2
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.0	5.3	4.9	4.9	Barton	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.9
Franklin	5.6	5.9	5.1	5.8	Bates	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.9
Jefferson	5.2	5.1	4.6	4.8	Benton	9.4	9.6	8.8	10.2
Lincoln	6.0	7.7	5.1	7.6	Caldwell	7.7	7.8	7.1	7.4
St. Charles	3.7	4.4	3.5	3.7	Carroll	5.4	4.7	4.5	6.0
St. Louis County	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.5	Cedar	5.7	5.2	4.6	5.6
Warren	5.6	7.5	5.3	7.3	Chariton	6.0	6.1	5.6	7.1
St. Louis City	8.0	8.1	8.3	7.5	Clark	8.0	9.0	7.5	7.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.2	Cooper	5.4	5.6	6.2	4.9
Cass	4.2	4.1	3.5	3.8	Crawford	7.1	7.4	6.6	7.7
Clay	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0	Dade	5.2	4.9	4.6	5.0
Clinton	4.9	4.5	3.8	4.1	Dallas	9.0	9.0	9.5	8.3
Jackson	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.5	Daviess	5.9	5.2	4.8	6.6
Lafayette	5.0	4.7	4.1	4.9	DeKalb	9.3	7.4	6.6	6.4
Platte	3.7	3.4	3.2	2.6	Dent	8.1	8.6	8.7	9.5
Ray	4.3	4.1	3.4	4.7	Douglas	12.3	13.1	13.0	10.0
SPRINGFIELD MSA	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.6	Dunklin	8.3	7.9	8.0	8.7
Christian	4.8	4.9	3.6	4.7	Gasconade	6.1	6.7	5.2	6.0
Greene	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.2	Gentry	5.6	4.3	3.6	4.9
Webster	5.4	4.7	4.2	4.8	Grundy	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.1
JOPLIN MSA	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	Harrison	5.5	5.0	3.6	5.2
Jasper	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.2	Henry	6.9	6.9	6.0	6.2
Newton	4.4	4.3	4.7	3.9	Hickory	9.7	10.0	9.4	11.7
COLUMBIA MSA	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7	Holt	5.2	4.3	3.7	5.6
Boone	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7	Howard	5.1	4.7	4.9	5.0
ST. JOSEPH MSA	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.4	Iron	8.1	7.7	8.2	8.6
Andrew	5.6	5.7	4.8	5.7	Johnson	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.8
Buchanan	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.3	Knox	4.0	4.8	3.1	6.5
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	4.1	4.2	3.1	4.9	Laclede	6.8	6.8	6.7	7.9
Adair	3.6	3.8	2.9	4.3	Lewis	5.1	4.4	4.7	5.3
Schuyler	7.1	6.5	4.0	8.5	Linn	6.3	8.7	8.5	7.5
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	6.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	Livingston	4.1	3.8	3.1	5.2
Butler	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.2	McDonald	5.3	5.5	6.0	4.6
Carter	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.4	Macon	8.4	9.4	8.2	13.7
Ripley	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.7	Madison	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.4
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	10.1	10.8	8.5	10.2	Mercer	4.4	4.0	4.3	5.1
Camden	9.8	10.6	8.7	9.7	Monroe	7.4	7.7	6.6	8.7
Miller	10.6	11.1	8.3	11.0	Montgomery	6.4	7.9	6.3	8.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.7	5.8	5.5	6.3	Morgan	9.6	9.7	8.9	9.1
Bollinger	9.8	9.6	9.8	7.8	Nodaway	2.4	1.8	1.4	2.6
Cape Girardeau	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.9	Ozark	8.0	8.3	7.1	8.1
Mississippi	8.7	8.8	9.7	10.3	Pemiscot	10.0	10.4	11.0	11.7
New Madrid	8.5	8.1	7.9	12.4	Perry	3.5	3.5	3.3	4.2
Scott	5.6	6.1	5.8	6.4	Pettis	6.9	7.6	7.6	5.9
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.9	Pike	5.5	6.5	6.1	5.7
Callaway	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.8	Polk	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3
Cole	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.9	Pulaski	6.1	6.2	5.8	7.9
Moniteau	3.5	4.3	4.0	5.0	Putnam	5.4	4.7	4.6	5.1
Osage	4.9	5.3	4.2	8.2	Randolph	6.2	6.0	5.5	6.3
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.8	6.0	5.4	5.7	Reynolds	12.4	12.2	13.6	11.1
Howell	5.5	5.7	5.0	5.3	St. Clair	5.7	5.2	5.4	6.6
Oregon	5.6	5.1	4.6	3.6	Ste. Genevieve	6.3	6.2	5.3	5.9
Shannon	7.6	8.3	7.8	9.3	Saline	5.8	5.9	6.3	3.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.0	Scotland	6.5	6.6	4.3	4.9
Barry	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.2	Shelby	7.9	7.9	6.1	8.7
Lawrence	5.1	5.4	5.0	4.8	Stoddard	7.7	8.5	7.4	9.0
MARION-RALLS LMA	6.1	5.8	5.3	6.7	Stone	23.3	22.7	8.6	23.9
Marion	5.9	5.7	5.3	6.8	Sullivan	3.6	4.1	3.3	4.5
Ralls	6.4	5.9	5.3	6.6	Taney	20.2	20.4	5.1	21.3
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	4.0	4.1	3.5	4.2	Texas	7.4	8.0	7.7	7.9
Maries	5.3	5.5	4.4	5.6	Vernon	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.1
Phelps	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.9	Wayne	13.7	13.0	12.8	13.8
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	8.6	8.6	8.2	8.6	Worth	7.6	5.1	5.2	7.4
St. Francois	7.6	7.8	7.8	8.2	Wright	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.4
Washington	11.0	10.6	9.2	9.3					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: 2001 DATA FOR SUBSTATE AREAS HAVE BEEN REVISED, BUT ARE PROVISIONAL, NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS